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Daily Press Office, January 1886.

## INTIMATION.

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CARBON FILTERS  
WITH MOBILE BLOCKS

FOR

PURIFYING DRINKING WATER.

A Shipment of these Filters in three useful sizes has just been received by the Undersigned.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED,  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.  
Hongkong, 1st May, 1886.NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.  
Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not adored for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour no supply is limited.

The Daily Press.  
Hongkong, AUGUST 11TH, 1886.

In considering a scheme for the formation of a municipality in Hongkong one of the first points to be decided would be the limits of the municipality—whether it would include the city of Victoria only, or take in also Kowloon and the Peak. The outlying villages would of course be left to the sole care of the Colonial Government. This preliminary point settled, there would next come the question of the readjustment of the positions of various officials whose departments would be affected by the creation of the new body. First of these would come the Surveyor-General, the Colonial Surgeon, and the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. In most of the municipalities at home the Police Force is subject to the Municipal Council, but situated as Hongkong is it would probably not be considered advisable to interfere with the present system in that department. The arrangements for extinguishing fire in the city, however, would of course naturally fall entirely within the scope of the Municipal Council, and the Fire Department would have to be taken over bodily. Then with regard to sanitation, the Municipal Council would have to take over the Inspectors of Nuisances and would require the assistance of a medical man to advise it on the various points arising on the reports of these offices as well as to give advice in the drawing up of sanitary regulations. Would the Colonial Surgeon be required to undertake this work, or would it be deemed necessary to appoint another medical man? We are not aware how this difficulty is met at Singapore, according to the Director of the Nuisance Department is subject to the Municipality, but we do not find any medical officer of the Municipality returned. Presumably some arrangement exists with the Colonial Medical Department. The Singapore Municipality, however, seems to be a sort of hybrid institution with very restricted functions, and we should like to have further testimony as to its efficiency before adopting it as a model for Hongkong. On one point, certainly, it seems to have well defined authority, and that is with reference to the care of the streets within municipal limits, and it has an one of its officers a Municipal Engineer who has a department of his own quite distinct from that of the Colonial Engineer. Such a division would hardly be possible in Hongkong, for if we handed over the municipal work to a new office what would there be left for the Surveyor-General to do? Even the water works would belong to the Municipality, and the duties of the Surveyor-General's department, if a Municipal Engineer's department were created, would be confined to the care of the country roads and Government buildings. The fact is the colony is too small for any such subdivision of work as this. If one of the consequences of the creation of a municipality is to be the sending of the Colonies with a number of new and unnecessary officials then the evil of the new system would go far to outweigh the

good. The Straits Settlements are very differently situated from Hongkong in respect of its necessities of government. They embrace a large extent of territory and several considerable towns, and municipalities for the latter are a necessary relief to the Colonial Government. Hongkong, on the other hand, consists of one considerable town, with the addition of a few, comparatively speaking, unimportant villages. To relieve the Colonial Government of the management of the municipal affairs of the town would leave it with few, albeit they might be important, functions. At the same time it seems to us that the ratepayers are entitled, as we have long contended, to a more direct voice in the expenditure of the public funds. The question is whether this object might not be attained without resorting to the expedient of having a Municipal government working under a Colonial Government for the management of the affairs of a community of less than two hundred thousand persons. The place seems too small for an absolutely dual form of Government, but a system adopted to meet all our requirements might without difficulty be devised. The formation of the Sanitary Board was a step in the right direction and affords the nucleus of all that is needed. A new name might be given to it in order to indicate duties outside purely sanitary matters, and the Board might then be consulted as to the expenditure of money by the Public Works department, whether for necessary or merely ornamental work. During the incumbency of the office by Mr. Finch it would be unfair to that gentleman to disturb existing arrangements and lessen the dignity of his office by subjecting him to the dictation of a Board which was not in existence when he received his appointment; but when any new appointment is made to the office—the necessity for which we hope may be far distant—opportunity ought to be taken to effect a change in the system under which the Public Works Department is now re-organized. At present, as regards public works, we are subject to a most distinctly one man power, for while the Legislative Council votes lump sum it exercises little or no control over the detail of the expenditure. It has been said that the best form of government is a benevolent autocrat, and we may adapt the saying to Mr. Finch's conduct of his department; but previous Surveyors-General have not given equal satisfaction, and very possibly future ones may not. And even under Mr. Finch's administration of the department, although there has never been any division of opinion as to the quality of his work, the necessity of particular undertakings has sometimes been called in question. We must do Mr. Finch the justice to say that in general the public have conceded the desirability if not the necessity of this work when they have seen the improvements which it has effected in the appearance of the town or the convenience it has afforded. At the same time we hold that the power wielded by the Surveyor-General is too great to be placed in the hands of any new man, and would recommend that when the next change is made in the office every work undertaken by the Surveyor-General's Department should be submitted to a Board representing the ratepayers. The Sanitary Board might have its powers and its constitution enlarged so as to deal with this matter, which would probably be found a more convenient course than the institution of a full-blown municipality.

The British corvette *Sophie*, Captain Kinsman, has left yesterday for the North.

Rear Admiral Shearlock, U.S.N., is expected in Shanghai from Yokohama, on the 12th inst., on his way to Peking.

The Shanghai Mercury says that Prince Chun was to give audience to all the Foreign Ministers at Peking on the 6th inst.

A Japanese Consulate is in view of the steadily increasing number of Japanese residents, shortly to be established at Singapore.

The United States Senate, on the 8th ult., refused to allow a naval lieutenant to accept a decoration from the Emperor of China.

The D. D. R. steamer *Balkara* left here yesterday for Germany with the paid off crews of the German frigates *Blücher* and gunboat *Nauticus*.

We are informed by the Agents (Messrs. Siessens & Co.) that the D. D. R. steamer *Polymer* from Hamburg, left Singapore for this port p.m. yesterday.

Mr. Finzi, Consul for Italy at Shanghai, is expected to arrive from the next French mail. The Echo believes that Mr. Finzi has been appointed to a like position at Hangchow.

A Berlin contemporary says that the large torpedo boat which has been built for the Chinese Government is to be named *Yen Yen*. They are to be armed with 120 pounders and 1200 rounds.

The strike of the Hongkong and Macao junks against the English increased last night and still continues, and the jawbones have crowded their determination to fight at the bitter end.

Says the *Japan Herald*:—We believe we are correct in stating that the Chinese have finally agreed to hand over their naval force to the Emperor of Japan, and that the Chinese have now accepted a certain measure of Japanese jurisdiction outside of existing treaty limits being agreed to.

The British *Argus*, which left Macao on the 21st Inst. for Asia, with a cargo of goods had to put back on the 3rd ultime, having become leary by grounding. The cargo had to be discharged, when the damage was repaired, and on the 16th ultime the cargo was being re-shipped.

A Sööp correspondent writes to a Japanese temporary to the effect that Russia has recently made a request to the Korean Government that a tract of land lying to the north of Wonsan, and measuring about 800 square miles, be opened for the residence and trade of Russian officials and subjects.

Among the passengers who arrived here on Monday by the English liner *Lord Nelson*, Mrs. May, daughter of H. E. W. F. A. Wild, Governor of the Straits Settlements, is on their honeymoon trip to Japan. Whilst stopping in Hongkong they have been the guests of H. E. the Acting Governor and Mrs. March at Mountain Lodge. They left here yesterday by the City of Rio de Janeiro for Yokohama.

The *Herald* states that since it has been decided that the Emperor Kwang-Siu is to assume the reins of government on the 15th day of the first moon, next year, the residents at Peking will be all anxious to know what the Emperor will do. The Empress-Regent has decided that the Emperor will be born in odd number. The exact date has, however, not yet been fixed upon, and it is stated that the Empress-Regent will make another selection of the candidates for the future Emperor before performing the ceremony.

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*The Japan Herald* is responsible for the following:—The subscription in Shanghai for a memorial to the late Sir Harry Parkes, the English Ambassador to China, has been satisfactorily arranged. The amounts for which some of the leading firms there have inscribed their names on the list, being for such an object, much smaller than might have been reasonably anticipated.

*King's Lynn Times* of the 7th ult. says:—Amid festivities of an unusual character the first steamship of the new subsidized mail service steamed out of Bremerhaven Harbour last Wednesday on its first voyage to the East. The occasion was a unique one, as the history of German commerce, and it is not wonder that every endeavour was made to signalize it.

Reporting on the departure of the *Gas Works* from the Bundschuh, the *Beobachter* were present to aid in the rejoicing, and even the Chinese Ambassador lent his presence to the occasion.

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This Mission was established at Chungking in 1882. Property was purchased in the city early in 1883. Additional property was needed for hospital, school and residence. This property was purchased with the full knowledge of the pastor and officials that everything was done above board, the names of the Chinese and of the foreigners representing the society being written in the deeds. The deeds were stamped by the Magistrate, and proclamations issued stating that we were going to build. The building was begun, and continued till the Magistrate requested us to cease work temporarily account of the military examinations, when work was stopped. The property was turned over to the Magistrate with the full understanding that he was responsible for its protection. The property had been in possession of the Magistrate for over ten days before the riot. This is the legal status of the case in a nutshell.

Chungking is situated at the confluence of two rivers, and is connected by two or three miles by bridge. The city is divided into the business and the residential school, which is much concern to the mission, and the possibilities of the city and the suburbs were thoroughly examined during a search of a year's duration. No eligible property could be secured in the city with the funds at our command. The place finally purchased is located on the great road to the outer parts of the province and to the principal cities of Szechuan and of Kweichow. At times of the day this road is thronged; there are always people passing to and fro. A part of our mission is located in the city, where we expected to continue the dispensary work in connection with the hospital. As regards our building, I would say that we were building one story houses, 12 ft. from the floor-line to eaves, allowing for a ceiling 10 feet high. It was at first proposed to use an old Chinese house for one of the buildings, and the foundations were dug with this in view. It proved impracticable, however, and stone was substituted, being more economical than brick or wood. The stone work of the house was completed within two or three feet of the eaves, and had cost about \$100 per person.

If the location was objectionable it was entirely unknown to us until just preceding the riot, when the first objection was offered by the military students in their insurrectionary places. The magistrate had readily accepted our deeds and issued proclamations, and our building had been secured for three months without opposition. In fact, the buildings themselves were objectionable to us, unknown to us, and unobjectionable to the Chinese.

The average native lives amidst dirt and filth, in a dirt house, and no doubt the real work of the Szechuan stone-masons was in contrast with the dirt houses. In the trying climate of a southern latitude (23°), where it never freezes, and where typhus fever prevails with great violence during the summer, the houses were simply trying to secure healthful homes.

As regards the cause of the riot, it is impossible to state any one thing as the cause. Our building, together with the fact that we were Americans, and that the American troubles were known to the officials, and to some extent by the people, offered a ready excuse—the most likely handle, and the officials quickly saw the advantage of using the incident to the detriment of the Americans, though the Tao-tai in a proclamation also involved the English, who were building a mosque on our part.

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If our buildings were a prime cause, the action of the mob is inexplicable. The order in which the riot progressed has been mystified in every case. This is perhaps due to the fact that the rioters first attacked the house of Mr. Cope, who was a foreigner, and were willing to let go, though a British subject, in exchange for the wealth of the American Missionaries.

The next house attacked was the house of Mr. Nicol, of the China Island Mission; then the premises of the British Resident, Mr. P. S. A. Bourne; next the house of Mr. Wood, of the China Island Mission; afterwards the two Catholic places and finally the property of the American Mission in the city.

The buildings said to be the cause of the riot, though only two or three minutes' walk from Mr. Cope's house, where the rioters began, were not disturbed until the following day, when only the wood was carried off and the wooden buildings torn down, no effort being made to burn them, which were very easily set on fire.

After the rioters had been driven down town and surrounding the dragon that controlled the welfare of Chungking and the surrounding country.

The riot was clearly an anti-foreign riot with a variety of causes, chief among which is the fact that it was aimed at the officials. The Catholic Cathedral was covered with Imperial (yellow) tiles, which may have been the cause of the general attack on the cathedral.

This was the source of much irritation to the Chinese, and during the French war planzars were said to have been firing a day for destroying the Cathedrals. The prompt action of the Tao-tai averted trouble, and the people agreed to wait until the examinations, which occurred this summer. Had the Tao-tai lived, there is every reason to suppose that the riot would not have occurred. Without attempting to decide the in the order of their importance, some of the reasons of the riot may be stated as follows:

The presence of a large body of military students. The high price of rice and consequent suffering among the poor, rendering it easy for the students to incite them to violence by hope of plunder. The recent death of several of the higher government authorities, including the Vice-General of Szechuan and the Tao-tai of eastern Sun-chuan. The building of the American Mission, which, as circumstances proved, was being carried on at an unfortunate time. The ever-present anti-foreign feeling, to be found everywhere in China. The disposition of the officials, either to help on the mob, or, at least, not to interfere with it.

I would not think the mob while to reply to the statement that the Americans invited the mob by firing on them with a pistol, had not been asked in good faith if it was true, since my arrival in Shanghai. The statement is utterly false. When the mob gathered at our front gate, and the destruction of our property was inevitable, we escaped through a back gate without coming in contact with the mob, and reached the yamen after several hours, hiding by the way.

There was a trouble about a month previous to the riot, when a lady, having alone, and the place being attacked by a crowd of roughs probably intoxicated, took advantage of an empty gun, which had recently arrived from home as a relief of my boyhood, and for which we had no ammunition with which to defend the crowd until the mob should be in the gate.

I mention this as it may be the basis of the report about the pistols, and as we do not wish to repress any facts in connection with the case.

In closing I would say that it has been my desire to place the facts of the case before the public without argument.

Whatever part the building of the American Mission had in justice to us that the place was purchased without opposition, that the official readily stamped the deeds and issued proclamations; that the work was continued until objection was offered, which was based by the Magistrate, not on any complaint of the people, but solely on account of the presence of a large number of military students during examinations; that the work was suspended, and the work stopped and the property turned over to the Magistrate, the missionaries moving into the city, where for several years the three families of our mission have occupied a re-modelled native house.

**COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.**

TUESDAY, 10th August.  
EXPORT CARGOES.

Per American ship *George R. Skofield*, sailed on the 3rd August.—For San Francisco—7,925 boxes tea, 169 bags coffee, 373 bags tea-picks, 50 bags gambier, 150 cases broken cassia, 64 bags arrowroot, 125 bags pepper, 1 bald skin, 208 bags ginger, 63 bags gunny, 6,000 bags rice, 1,365 boxes root flour, 300 packages tobacco, 1,169 packages soap, 414 boxes dried fish, 1,000 rolls cotton, 1,000 boxes, 10 bags sponge, 96 packages cornmeal, 570 packages sago, 74 packages medicines, 916 rolls matting, 20 boxes hats, 31 packages rattan chairs, 534 bags beans, 45 boxes fire works, 182 boxes fire crackers, and 6,038 packages merchandise.

W. DOBEROK.  
Hongkong Observatory, 10th August, 1886.

**METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.**

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## VESSELS ADVERTISED AS LOADING.

DESIGNATION	SHIP'S NAME	CAPTAIN	AT	FOR FREIGHT, APPL TO	TO BE DISPATCHED
LONDON, &c., VIA SUEZ CANAL.	Poshawin (ste.)	L. H. Moule	Hongkong	P. & O. S. N. Co.	To-morrow, at 4 P.M.
LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.	Tolmachev (ste.)	Gordon Carter (ste.)	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 1st inst.
LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.	St. Stephen	S. G. Moore	Hongkong	Diamond & Co.	On or about 17th inst.
LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.	Olive (ste.)	Olive (ste.)	Hongkong	J. M. Mathews & Co.	On 3rd Sept., at Noon.
HAVRE AND LONDON.	Leonea	Arntfeld, Karberg & Co.	Hongkong	Quick despatch.	Quick despatch.
TRISTEZA, &c.	Don Endine	Carwile & Co.	Hongkong	O. Baehra	On 14th inst., at Noon.
MARSEILLE VIA SAIGON, &c.	Poseidon (ste.)	G. Donach	Hongkong	Messageries Maritimes	On or about 17th inst.
MARSEILLE VIA SINGAPORE, &c.	T. Radonicz	D. de Marselle	Hongkong	C. Cardell & Co.	On 24th inst., at 3 P.M.
BANFLANCISCO VIA YAHAM.	Borodina (ste.)	P. M. S. S. Co.	Hongkong	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 2nd Sept., at 3 P.M.
CHINA, SINGAPORE, &c.	Caribou (ste.)	Russell & Co.	Hongkong	Quick despatch.	Quick despatch.
CHINA, SINGAPORE, &c.	Caribou (ste.)	Simson & Co.	Hongkong	Carwile & Co.	Quick despatch.
NEW YORK	Anna H. Smith	Wossels	Hongkong	Quick despatch.	Quick despatch.
NEW YORK	Alma	Alberts	Hongkong	Pustia & Co.	Quick despatch.
NEW YORK	Gloaming	Deusmore	Hongkong	Pustia & Co.	Quick despatch.
NEW YORK	E. Lane	Emerson	Hongkong	Pustia & Co.	Quick despatch.
NEW YORK	Factula	Ulmer	Hongkong	Pustia & Co.	Quick despatch.
NEW YORK	Bojangles	Dickens	Hongkong	Pustia & Co.	Quick despatch.
NEW YORK	Livington Light	Dickens	Hongkong	Carwile & Co.	Quick despatch.
SYDNEY & MELBOURNE.	Silk (ste.)	Rich	Hongkong	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	On 18th inst., at 4 P.M.
YOKOHAMA VIA NAGASAKI, &c.	Thibet (ste.)	St. Stephen	Hongkong	E. F. W. Warak	On 14th inst., 2.30 P.M.
YOKOHAMA, KOBE, &c.	St. Stephen	T. S. Gardner	Hongkong	D. S. Sonnon, Sons & Co.	On or about 14th Aug.
KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.	Gallop of Lorne (ste.)	J. Anderson	Hongkong	G. Livingstone & Co.	On 13th inst., at 4 P.M.
CALCUTTA VIA STRAITS.	T. Radonicz	G. Fieffer	Hongkong	G. Livingstone & Co.	On 17th inst.
SINGAPORE AND PENANG.	Japan (ste.)	K. K. Purdy	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 14th inst.
SHANGHAI	Shanghaia (ste.)	Talbot	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 13th inst., at 5 P.M.
SHANGHAI VIA AMOY.	Zafiro (ste.)	D. Russell & Co.	Hongkong	P. & O. S. N. Co.	To-day, at Noon.
MANILA.	Zafiro (ste.)	Douglas	Hongkong	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 14th inst.

## INSURANCES.

## VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

## DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

## OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

## FOR SHANGHAI VIA AMOY, AND TAIWANFOO.

## THE Company's Chartered Steamship

## "CARIBROOK."

## Captain Case will be despatched for the above Ports TO-DAY, the 11th instant, at Noon.

## FOR Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAPEAK &amp; CO., General Managers.

## Hongkong, 9th August, 1886.

## UNION LINE.

## FOR KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

## THE Steamship

## "GALLEY OF LORNE."

## Captain Pomroy will be despatched for the above Ports TO-DAY, the 11th inst., at Four P.M.

## FOR Freight or Passage, apply to RUSSELL &amp; CO., Agents.

## Hongkong, 4th August, 1886.

## CALEDONIAN FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

## THE Undersigned, Agents of the above Company, are authorized to INSURE against FIRE at Current Rates.

## GILMAN &amp; CO.

## Hongkong, 1st January, 1882.

## GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

## THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE AND LIFE at Current Rates.

## PUSTAU &amp; CO.

## Hongkong, 1st April, 1882.

## GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

## THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to issue Policies of Insurance against FIRE on the usual terms.

## ARNOLD, KARBERG &amp; CO.

## Hongkong, January, 1882.

## THE STRAITS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

## THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to issue Policies of Insurance against FIRE on the usual terms.

## PASTEK &amp; CO.

## Hongkong, 1st May, 1882.

## QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

## THE Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to issue Policies of Insurance against FIRE on the usual terms.

## ARNOLD, KARBERG &amp; CO.

## Hongkong, 1st May, 1882.

## NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY AT HAMBURG.

## THE Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCES to all parts of the World, at current rates.

## MELOCHE &amp; CO.

## Hongkong, 27th March, 1876.

## PHENIX FIRE OFFICE.

## THE Undersigned are now prepared to GRANT POLICIES OF INSURANCE against FIRE at the following Rates:

## T. Radonicz, 1st class, 1/2 per cent.

## T. Radonicz, 2nd class, 1/2 per cent.

## T. Radonicz, 3rd class, 1/2 per cent.

## T. Radonicz, 4th class, 1/2 per cent.

## T. Radonicz, 5th class, 1/2 per cent.

## T. Radonicz, 6th class, 1/2 per cent.

## T. Radonicz, 7th class, 1/2 per cent.

## T. Radonicz, 8th class, 1/2 per cent.

## T. Radonicz, 9th class, 1/2 per cent.

## T. Radonicz, 10th class, 1/2 per cent.

## EXTRACT.

## THE CHILD SPY.

They called him Steenne—young Steenne. He was a real Paris boy, puny and pale, perhaps 10 and perhaps 15 years old—for with these impes you can never tell. His mother was dead and his father, formerly a soldier in the marines, was the guardian of a square in the Quartier du Temple. Everybody knew Father Steenne and loved him—babies, nurses, poor women, and the old ladies, with their camp stools—in fact, the whole of that part of Paris which such a refuge from passing carriages in these flower plots surrounded by side walls. Everybody knew what a pleasant, sympathetic smile the old fellow had behind his bristling moustache, both the terror of the dogs and loafers, and they also knew that to call up that smile they had but to ask:—

"How is the little boy today?"

How old Father Steenne lived that boy! He felt so happy when the little fellow came for him in the evening after school, and they walked down the ally hand in hand, stopping before each bench to greet the regular visitors and answer their politie questions. Unfortunately the siege changed all this. Father Steenne's square was closed, and petroleum was stored there; so the poor old man, ever on the watch, and not allowed to smoke, passed his life wandering alone among the deserted, overgrown shrubberies. He could not see his son until late at night, at home, and you should have heard them talk about the Prussians and see his moustache bristle up fiercely! Young Steenne did not complain much of his new life.

You see a sieve is lots of fun for the boys; school is closed; no more examinations now; every day is a holiday, and the streets are like a fair.

The child used to stay out until midnight, running about everywhere. He followed the companies of his ward as they tramped off to duty on the ramparts, and always picked out those that had the best band. Young Steenne was well up on this subject, and he could tell you why the band of the Ninety-sixth was poor and why that of the Fifty-fifth was so good. Then again he watched mobiles drill. Besides these amusements there were the waiting processions, which formed before the doors of the butchers and bakers, in the dark winter mornings, when the lights were all out, and he would stand up in file like the rest, with his basket under his arm and his feet in the slush and water; here he made acquaintances and talked politics, and, as he was the son of Mr. Steenne, everybody asked his opinion. But what was most fun was pitching pennies, and that famous game of "galoches," which the Breton militia had brought into fashion during the siege. When you could not find young Steenne either on the ramparts or at the baker's he was pretty sure to be at the game of "galoches," on the square du Chateau d'Eu. He could not play, of course—that cost too much—but he looked on, and opened the biggest, greediest eyes in the world.

There was one fellow in a blue smock whom he admired especially; he only bet dollar chips and when he ran you could hear the silver jingle in his pockets. One day as he was picking up a coin which had rolled away and stopped just at young Steenne's feet, the big fellow said to him in a low voice, "It makes you squirt, does it? Well, if you want to know, I'll tell you where you can get some."

When the game was over, he led him to a corner of the squares and proposed to him to go with him and sell newspapers to the Prussians; he got 50 francs a trip. Steenne refused at first and was highly indignant. There, looking happy and busily plasing his men. He noticed the children as they passed and smiled at them kindly. He was on the point of calling out to them:

"Don't go there; we have betrayed you!"

But his companion had warned him, "If you speak we shall be shot," and so far he had drawn around him. One of them, pointing to the door, said to the boys:

"Get out of here!"

And they began to talk among themselves very quickly in German. The bigger boy stalked out proud as a king, and rattling his money. Steenne passed, hanging his head, and he passed the Prussian whose gaze had embarrassed him so, he heard him say in a sad tone of voice: "A past tip; a past tip this," and it brought the tears to his eyes.

Once out in the plain, the boys began to run quickly towards home. Their bag was full of potatoes, which the Prussians had given them, and so they passed the sharpshooters' trench without a hitch. Here they were getting ready for the night attack.

If you want to buy JAPANESE GOODS at Reasonable Rates go to CASSUMBOETH'S WAREHOUSE, BRADFIELD-ABERBONE. A vast Variety on View. Also FURNITURE of all kinds, at Lowest Prices.

HONGKONG, 1st July, 1886.

FOR SALE  
HAMPAGNE "MONOPOLE"  
—HEIDSIECK & Co.

MONOPOLE RED SEAL (medium dry).

Do. RED FOIL "Sax" (dry).

Do. GOLD FOIL "Dry" (extra dry).

CARLOWITZ & Co., Sole Agents for HEIDSIECK & Co., BEERS.

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FOR SALE  
HING KEE

STEAM LAUNCH CO.

HONGKONG has a number of the best

GOALS FOR BOATS, SCAMMERS, & SWIM AT MODERATE TERMS.

W. H. LANE.

HONGKONG, 17th September, 1885.

FOR SALE  
YEE SUNG & Co., COAL MERCHANTS,

GIVE AWAY OF LARGE STOCKS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF COAL.

Address—Cane of Messrs. KWONG SUNG & Co., No. 68, PRAYA.

HONGKONG, 17th September, 1885.

FOR SALE  
JOSEPH GILLOTT'S STEEL PENS.

PARIS, 1878.

Sold by all Stationers and Drapers.

NOW ON SALE.

IMPERIAL QUARTO.

ENGLISH AND CHINESE DICTIONARY.

WITH THE PUNTI AND MANDARIN VOCABULARY.

An Anglo-Chinese Dictionary, published at the Daily Press Office, Hongkong.

For comprehensive and practical service this Work stands unrivaled. All the now words which the Chinese have of late years been compelled to coin to express the numerous objects in machinery, photography, telegraphy, and science generally, which the rapid advance of foreign relations has imposed upon them, have been collected and explained, forming exercises for students of a most instructive nature. Both the Court- and Punti pronunciations are given, the accents being carefully marked on the best practical lithographs attained. The typography displays the success of an attempt to make the Chinese and English type correspond in the size of body, though often in width, which the work contains more than five times as many characters as any other. Dictionary lithographs, and upwards of 600,000 Chinese characters.

Come, come boys, don't stand there crying," he said to the children; "they'll let you through after your potatoes, but just come in here and get warm. That younger looks frozen."

Alas! Young Steenne was trembling all over, not with cold, but with shame and fear. Inside they found a few soldiers crouched around a dying fire—a real widow's fire, as they say—in the flame of which they were to thaw some biscuits on the point end of their bayonets. They moved up close to make room for the children, and gave them a little coffee and a drop of brandy. While they were drinking an officer called out to the sergeant from the door, said a few words to him and hurried off.

The sergeant returned in high glee. "Boys," he said, "grop all round to-night! We have got the password of the Prussians, and this time I think we'll take the Bourg away from them."

There was a burst of applause, and the men began to dance and to sing, while some of them polished up their bayonets. Taking advantage of this confusion, the children escaped.

Beyond the trench they struck the plain, at the end of which loomed up a white wall, broken by loopholes. They made straight for the wall, stopping at every step to look, as though they were picking up potatoes.

"Let us go home—don't let us go on," young Steenne kept saying. The other merely shrugged his shoulders and kept on advancing. Suddenly they heard the click of a gun being cocked.

"Lie down!" cried the elder, throwing himself over the snow. They advanced, slowly creeping on all fours. On a

level with the ground, and just before the wall, a yellow mousatope appeared under a grey cap. The big boy jumped into the ditch by the side of the Prussian.

"That is my brother," he said, pointing to his companion.

The boy Steenne was so small that the Prussian began to laugh as he looked at him, and seized him in his arms to lift him up to the break in the wall, on the other side of which rose heavy earthen embankments, cut tree trunks, and black holes in the snow, in each of which you just saw the same greasy cap and the same yellow mousatope that laughed as the boys passed.

In one corner stood the gardener's house with tree trunks for casements. The lower floor was full of soldiers playing cards, while some were cooking a stew over a large fire. It smelt so good of cabbage and ham—that was a difference between that and the sharpshooters' camp! Upstairs the officers were playing the piano and uncorking champagne, and gave a joyful cheer as the boys entered. They gave their papers and the men began to give them wine and to make them talk. Most of the officers looked so grand, fierce men, but the big fellow's slang and his caddish, monkeyish manners seemed to amuse them vastly. They laughingingly repeated the words after him, which a curious delight in wallowing in the mud which he brought them from Paris.

Young Steenne would have liked to say something, too, so as to show them that he was no fool, either, but something embarrassed him. A little to one side, and facing him, was a Prussian older than the rest, and more serious looking. He was reading, or pretending to read, for he never took his eyes off the boy, and there was something of tenderness and something of reproach in his look, as though he were thinking of his own son, just about Steenne's age, and were saying to himself:—

"I had rather die than have my boy do such a thing."

And young Steenne felt as though a hand was placed upon his heart and kept it from beating. To forget this feeling he began to drink, until soon everything around him was turning round. He could hear indistinctly how his comrade was laughing at the National Guard and at their awkward drill, much to the amusement of the listeners, or how he imitated a false alarm, the turning out at night and the rush for the ramparts. After a while the big fellow lowered his voice, and the faces of the officers grew more serious as they drew nearer. The wretch was warning them against the attack of the sharpshooters. This time young Steenne could not stand it, and, suddenly sobered, he cried out, "I won't have that, none of that."

But the big fellow only laughed and went on; before he was through all the officers had drawn around him. One of them, pointing to the door, said to the boys:

"Get out of here!"

And they began to talk among themselves very quickly in German. The bigger boy stalked out proud as a king, and rattling his money. Steenne passed, hanging his head, and he passed the Prussian whose gaze had embarrassed him so, he heard him say in a sad tone of voice: "A past tip; a past tip this," and it brought the tears to his eyes.

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## FOR SALE.

## CALIFORNIAN FLOUR.

This Finest FLOUR in the Market is STAIN & Co.'s well known, best roller made.

## DRA-GON EXTRA.

STRENGTH AND COLOUR UNSURPASSED TRY IT.

120

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## TRICORD COTTAGE PIANOS.

COMPLETE IRON FRAMING and PATENT METAL PIN PEGS.

with all the latest improvements.

PRICE FROM \$240.

Payable also by Monthly Instalments from 15 dollars, if required.

W. W. POWELL & Co.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1886.

1772

## FOR SALE.

## CHAS. H. E. D. SIECKE'S CHAMPAIGNE, 1880, WHITE SEAL.

121 per case of 1 dozen quarts.

PAUL DOUBOIS & Co's.

CLARET, GRAND VIN LIEVILLE.

125 per case of 1 dozen quarts.

CLARET, CHATEAU LABOSSE.

125 per case of 1 dozen quarts.

POINET CANET.

125 per case of 1 dozen quarts.

PAINTER MARGAUX.

# MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 1886.

## WOULD A MUNICIPALITY WORK IN HONGKONG?

In considering a scheme for the formation of a municipality in Hongkong one of the first points to be decided would be the limits of the municipality—whether it would include the city of Victoria only, or take in also Kowloon and the Peak. The outlying villages would, of course, be left to the sole care of the Colonial Government. This preliminary point settled, there would next come the question of the readjustment of the positions of various officials whose departments would be affected by the creation of the new body. First of these would come the Surveyor-General, the Colonial Surgeon, and the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. In most of the municipalities at home the Police Force is subject to the Municipal Council, but situated as Hongkong is it would probably not be considered advisable to interfere with the present system in that department. The arrangements for extinguishing fires in the city, however, would of course naturally fall entirely within the scope of the Municipal Council, and the Fire Department would have to be taken over bodily. Then with regard to sanitation, the Municipal Council would have to take over the Inspectors of Nuisances and would require the assistance of a medical man to advise it on the various points arising on the reports of these officers as well as to give advice in the drawing up of sanitary regulations. Would the Colonial Surgeon be required to undertake this work, or would it be deemed necessary to appoint another medical man? We are not aware how this difficulty is met at Singapore; according to the Director of the Nuisance Department is subject to the Municipality, but we do not find any medical officer of the Municipality returned. Presumably some arrangement exists with the Colonial Medical Department. The Singapore Municipality, however, seems to be a sort of hybrid institution with very restricted functions, and we should like to have further testimony as to its efficiency before adopting it as a model for Hongkong. On one point, certainly, it seems to have well defined authority, and that is with reference to the care of the streets within municipal limits, and it has as one of its officers a Municipal Engineer who has a department of his own quite distinct from that of the Colonial Engineer. Such a division would hardly be possible in Hongkong, for if we handed over the municipal work to a new officer what would then be left for the Surveyor-General to do? Even the water works would belong to the Municipality, and the duties of the Surveyor-General's department, if a "Municipal Engineer" department were created, would be confined to the care of the country roads and Government buildings. The fact is the colony is too small for any such subdivision of work as this. If one of the consequences of the creation of a municipality is to be the saddling of the Colony with a number of new and unnecessary officials then the evil of the new system would go far to outweigh the good. The Straits Settlements are very differently situated from Hongkong in respect of its necessities of government. They embrace a large extent of territory and several considerable towns, and municipalities for the latter are a necessary relief to the Colonial Government. Hongkong, on the other hand, consists of one considerable town, with the addition of a few, comparatively speaking, unimportant villages. To relieve the Colonial Government of the management of the municipal affairs of the town would leave it with few, albeit they might be important, functions. At the same time it seems to us that the ratepayers are entitled, as we have long contended, to a more direct voice in the expenditure of the public funds. The question is whether this object might not be attained without resorting to the expedient of having a Municipal government working under a Colonial Government for the management of the affairs of a community of less than two hundred thousand persons. The place seems too small for an absolutely dual form of Government, but a system adopted to meet all our requirements will without difficulty be devised. The formation of the Sanitary Board was a step in the right direction and affords the nucleus of all that is needed. A new name might be given to it in order to indicate duties outside purely sanitary matters, and the Board might then be consulted as to the expenditure of money by the Public Works department, whether for necessary or merely ornamental work. During the incumbency of the office by Mr. Price it would be unfair to that gentleman to disturb existing arrangements and lessen the dignity of his office by subjecting him to the dictation of a Board which was not in existence when he received his appointment; but when any new appointment is made to the office—the necessity for which we hope may be far distant—opportunity ought to be taken to effect a change in the system under which the Public Works Department now operates. At present, as regards public works, we are subject to a most distinctly one man power, for while the Legislative Council votes lump sums it exercises little or no control over the details of the expenditure. It has been said that the best form of government is a benevolent autocracy, and we may adapt the saying to Mr. Price's conduct of his department; but previous Surveyors-General have not given equal satisfaction, and very possibly future ones may not. And even under Mr. Price's administration of the department, although there has never been any division of opinion as to the quality of his work, the necessity of particular undertakings has sometimes been called in question. We must do Mr. Price the justice to say that in general the public have conceded the desirability if not the necessity of the work when they have seen the improvements which it has effected in the appearance of

the town or the convenience it has afforded. At the same time we hold that the power wielded by the Surveyor-General is too great to be placed in the hands of any new man, and would recommend that when the next change is made in the office every work undertaken by the Surveyor-General's Department should be submitted to a Board representing the ratepayers. The Sanitary Board might have its powers and its constitution enlarged so as to deal with this matter, which would probably be found a more convenient course than the institution of a full blown municipality.

## THE SILVER QUESTION.

### THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Unless we are greatly mistaken Renter will prove to be in error in announcing that Lord STANHOPE has been appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies. The present Earl of STANHOPE is really a political novitiate; he sat in the House of Commons for a few years when Viscount MARSHAL, but in no way distinguished himself. His brother, the Hon. EDWARD STANHOPE, who in the late Parliament was also President of the Board of Trade in Lord SACKVILLE's last Administration, will probably prove to be the new Minister for the Colonies. He is a comparatively young man, having been born in 1840, and is generally regarded by both political parties as a promising statesman. Though not a great speaker, he is distinguished by sound common sense, and is likely to prove an energetic Minister. The Earl of DONCASTER, who is said to have been appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, is an Irish peer not unknown to fame, and sits in the House of Lords as Lord KENYER. The fact of a member of the Upper House having been made Under-Secretary confirms our belief that the Hon. EDWARD STANHOPE and not his brother the Earl in the new Secretary for the Colonies, since either the head of the Department or the Under-Secretary must occupy a seat in the House of Commons. Mr. STANHOPE was re-elected last month by his Lincolnshire constituents without opposition, his majority in 1885 having been a pretty decisive one. The new Minister will, we trust, display a keen personal interest in the consolidation of the Colonies, and not be content to merely follow old traditions as to the governance of England's great offshoots. In dealing with the Crown Colonies, too, it is to be hoped that he will take into careful consideration their special needs and their commercial possibilities. In

these days of trade depression anything that can be done to foster the growth of the dependencies and the expansion of their trade should not be neglected. It is at least some comfort to know that the new Secretary for the Colonies is not a fossil of the type of Lord DUNSTAN and KIMBERLEY, from whose domination we are at last happily emancipated.

### THE HAIKWAN'S CUSTOMS SERVICE.

The Shanghai Courier makes a very important statement, if correct. It has heard that one of the objects of Sir ROBERT HARVEY's visit to the south is "to investigate the working of the Hopo's service and to propose a scheme for its amalgamation with the Foreign Customs." It is to be feared that the obstacles in the way of the fulfilment of the project—if there be such a project—will prove too great to be easily surmounted. The post-of-Haikwan or Superintendence of Chinese Customs is a great prize at the disposal of the Peking Government, and its reception invariably makes a large fortune in his brief term of three years. He is also expected to execute various commissions—at his own cost—for the Imperial family while in Canton, and on his return to the capital, he is made to disgorge a portion of his spoil before he is permitted to pass through the Anting Gate. No doubt it would not be difficult for the Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs to show that the Haikwan, as competing with the Imperial Customs service, causes a greater loss to the latter than the Imperial Treasury gains by squeezing the incumbent of the post on his return to Peking. But irregular squeezing is dear to the Chinese official mind, and if gold is not sufficient for the purpose some other substance must be used in addition. That substance, notwithstanding our Northern contemporary, clearly ought to be silver. But then comes the question could a settled ratio between the two metals be maintained? This is what the N. C. Daily News has to say on this point:

The statement that before 1873 the par between gold and silver kept practically uniform is one of the corner stones in bi-metallism, but our reader will be interested to learn that in 1873, when Sir Robert Harvey came to China, he addressed his address to the Institute of Bankers in May last, an article on which, from the Economist, we reproduced on the 9th instant. It was therein stated that in the case of India, the standard of gold was always a complete failure. "The result," as bi-metallists themselves acknowledge, has been practical monometallism. In other words, the Chinese standard, though simply an alternative standard, has been a standard of silver only."

Mr. Giffen is one of the leading champions of the present one-standard system, and the Economist, as every one knows, is a strong opponent of bi-metallism. The statement made by Professor NICHTON is that India had remained steady, these prices have fallen, and the result is that India in exchange for her wheat now gets a fewer number of silver pieces, which she can exchange either for a similar quantity of silver to that she would formerly have received or for a similar quantity of other goods. Such is the effect of the Professor's argument, the soundness of which may be readily demonstrated. It is an elementary proposition in political economy that a country does not really exchange its exports for either of the precious metals, except to a very small extent, but for other goods which it requires for import, the precious metals being used merely as counters for the expression of values. Applying this proposition to the trade of India, what do we find? The export trade considerably exceeds the import trade (the average excess for the last ten years has been 18½ millions),

to which our contemporary refers even the dollar and tael exchange used to show fluctuations of over 5 per cent. An isolated exchange quotation therefore proves nothing. What is required is to take the ratio in the chief monetary centres of the world, and we have tables which enable us to do so. It may be useful to give these tables showing the fluctuations for the present century down to 1873. We quote them from a letter by Mr. GERALD MARTIN, of H. M. Assay Office, Bombay Mint:

HAMBURG TABLE ACCORDING TO THE MOST RELIABLE DOWN TO 1883.

	Ratio
Year	Gold to Silver.
1826	15·62
1828	18·18
1830	15·25
1832	15·23
1834	15·41
1836	15·25
1838	15·70
1840	15·52
1842	15·43
1844	15·26
1846	15·93
1848	15·77
1850	15·74
1852	15·76
1854	15·74
1856	15·76
1858	15·72
1860	15·23
1862	15·04
1864	15·23
1866	15·73
1868	15·23

the balance going to defray the home charges of the Government and the remittances by European residents. To make up this amount, which is measured in gold, India has to send away year by year a larger quantity of produce, for which she receives no increased return. It requires little acuteness to see that this cannot be a profitable movement to India. It is profitable to the bondholders in England, of course, but the profit is an inequitable one. This brings us to notice an article which appeared in Saturday night's *China Mail*. The writer contends that the gold in the sole ultimate measure of value in the world, in silver usage as well as in gold, using countries. The latter portion of this statement is absolutely inaccurate, as throughout Asia silver is taken as the standard of value, and to the Chinaman it is gold that is dear or cheap, not silver. But is the statement true as regards even England itself? By no means. The idea of the appreciation of gold seems inconceivable to the writer in question, but we will endeavour to make it clear to him. During the last ten years land in England has depreciated in value to the extent of twenty-five per cent. Is land then more plentiful or less valuable? If gold were the ultimate and permanent measure of value this depreciation in the value of land would be inexplicable, because land cannot increase in quantity except by infinitesimal reclamations, nor is it less productive now than formerly. The conclusion therefore is that the variation is referable solely to the appreciation of gold. But, says the *China Mail* writer, there is little likelihood of England abandoning the single gold standard, because (and here we quote from the *Nineteenth Century*) the rest of the world (including India presumably) is indebted to Great Britain to the extent of from £1,500,000,000 to £22,000,000,000 sterling, from which Great Britain draws an annual tribute of from £60,000,000 to £80,000,000. This brings us to the point round which the final and decisive struggle will be waged between the bi-metallists and the mono-metallists. Is commerce or usury to prevail? Are the trading interests of the country to be strangled in order that the bondholders may suffer? Their incomes increase? The latter remain the same as before measured in gold, it is true, but as measured in the purchasing power of gold they have increased twenty-five per cent. in ten years. If this increased burden of indebtedness fell only on other countries Great Britain might rest quiet as long as other countries were content to let things go on in this way, but Great Britain is herself a large national debt of which is increased in the same proportion, as well as the private indebtedness of the individual merchant or trader, or the landlord who has a mortgage on his estate. The rents of the latter fall off as gold appreciates, but the interest on the mortgage remains the same. It is easy to see how trade must be affected in the same way, for a business which may return a fair profit on capital of a certain amount must become less remunerative if not absolutely unprofitable if that capital be increased by twenty-five per cent. In time, no doubt, commerce would adapt itself to the new conditions, but just as the trying of a new pair of boots is an uncomfortable process, so the period of adaptation of commerce to new conditions of values must be one of disaster and loss. This is the object of the bi-metallists to minimise, and we wish all success to their efforts. There can be nothing unfair to the users in taking measures to prevent the further increase of their claims on the industrial, mercantile, and land owning sections of the population.

These figures show that after 1871 the greatest percentage of difference during these years was 2.9 above 15.5 and 2 below 15.5. The variation is small enough to warrant the statement that practical uniformity prevailed. As to the standard being alternative instead of double, this is a fact of which due account is taken by the bi-metallists, who found on it their doctrine of compensation, by which it is considered that the ratio is preserved. Thus under a double standard when one metal rises above the ratio a demand sets in for the cheaper metal, which in turn causes a diminution in the supply of the latter and an increase in that of the former, and thus we have an automatic action preserving the ratio by means of the ordinary laws of supply and demand. The *Body* *Newspaper* overstates the Economist's remarks, which are in large part devoted to a confirmation of Mr. GIFFEN's theories, notwithstanding that the leading financial journal is like the subject of the criticism, monometallist. The Economist admits that in France the legal ratio had an effect in regulating the exchangeable value of the two metals. Within what narrow limits this exchangeable value varied is shown by the tables we have quoted above, and with international bi-metallism the variation would practically disappear altogether.

II.

The adoption by the Conferences of British and Colonial Chambers of Commerce of a resolution declaring that the remonetization of silver would relieve the depression under which trade is now staggering is the most important event that has yet transpired in the endeavour to rehabilitate silver—more important even than the refusal of the United States Legislature to repeal the Bland Act, for in the latter the silver advocates merely achieved success in a defensive movement, whereas in the former they were attempting to discharge alone the functions it formerly shared with silver. Gold has consequently risen to a premium; the burden of national and private indebtedness has been increased; incomes, except those derived from funded stock, are declining; and industrial enterprise is having the heart beaten out of it by the banker's worm of restricted currency. What is to be the end of it all? Mr. DEL MAR, in his answers to Lord INDEBOROUGH's Commission, referring to the eighteenth century, says—"The evil effects of diminishing moneys manifested themselves in every country of the European world, including America; in each of them it was due to the failure of the supplies of the precious metals to keep pace with loss, wear and tear, and increasing demand to sustain prices; in nearly all of them it was followed by similar consequences; a continued and uneven fall of prices, industrial distress, social disorders, turbulence, anarchy, revolution, wars, and the dissolution of empires." Our present difficulties are enough to compel attention to the subject, without anticipating the recurrence of a movement analogous to the French Revolution, but it is only prudent to note the rumbblings of Socialism, which have already thrown more than one Government into alarm, and which are extending in the New as well as the Old World. Leaving aside, however, any far-fetched speculations on the political bearing of the question, what is to be done to meet the present commercial difficulty, the existence of which is universally admitted? If, as the N. C. Daily News says, bi-metallism is not the way out of our difficulties what is? The only other alternative is an inevitable paper currency. It is clear the world must have a currency of some kind, and if gold is not sufficient for the purpose some other substance must be used in addition. That substance, notwithstanding our Northern contemporary, clearly ought to be silver. But then comes the question could a settled ratio between the two metals be maintained?

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